

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GR
SUBJECT: MITSOTAKIS CHALLENGES MAVROS

1. CONSTANTINE MITSOTAKIS USED LARGE DINNER ORGANIZED BY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS IN THESSALONIKI TO STRONGLY CRITICIZE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AND TO ISSUE CHALLENGE TO GEORGE MAVROS FOR CONTROL OF THE POLITICAL CENTER. DINNER WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY SIX HUNDRED AND FULL TEXT OF SPEECH WAS CARRIED IN THESSALONIKI'S TWO MAJOR MORNING PAPERS.

2. BULK OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO CRITICISM OF ALLEGED INACTIVITY AND FAULTY POLICIES OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. MITSOTAKIS MAINTAINED CARAMANLIS HAD FAILED IN ALL DOMESTIC AREAS, BUT PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC POLICIES. SPECIFICALLY, HE CRITICIZED CONTINUED HIGH RATE OF INFLATION, LACK OF SERIOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AND POOR PREPARATIONS FOR GREEK ENTRY INTO COMMON MARKET. FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF GOG ACTIVITIES WERE LARGELY IGNORED.

3. REAL OBJECT OF SPEECH, HOWEVER, WAS IMPLIED AND IN SOME CASES DIRECT CRITICISM OF GEORGE MAVROS FOR HIS FAILURE
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TO DEVELOP A VIABLE POLITICAL OPPOSITION OF THE CENTER.
TO REMEDY THIS, MITSOTAKIS PROPOSED
A CLOSED MEETING OF ALL CENTER UNION PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES FROM THE 1964 AND 1974 ELECTIONS TO DECIDE THE BASIC IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR A CENTER PARTY AND TO ELECT LEADERS. MAVROS, HE CONCEDED, WOULD ENTER SUCH A MEETING WITH A MAJORITY, BUT MITSOTAKIS IMPLIED, THERE COULD BE SOME CHANGES. IF MAVROS

AND EDHK DID NOT AGREE TO SUCH A MEETING, MITSOTAKIS SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO FORM HIS OWN CENTER PARTY OF "ALL THE GREEK PEOPLE BUT PARTICULARLY THE BROAD AREA OCCUPIED BY EDHK AND NEW DEMOCRACY IN THE LAST ELECTIONS".

4. EDHK HAS REACTED UNHAPPILY TO THIS SUGGESTION AND IN OBVIOUS ANTICIPATION OF IT HAD ALREADY PASSED OUT LEAFLETS WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS BLAMED MITSOTAKIS FOR THE 1965 FALL OF PAPANDREOU GOVERNMENT AND THE 1967 COUP.

5. MITSOTAKIS PRESENCE IN THESSALONIKI GOT THE LOCAL POLITICAL ADRENALIN MOVING AGAIN AFTER A LONG HIATUS. WHETHER THIS CAN BE SUSTAINED OR TRANSLATED IN SUPPORT FOR MITSOTAKIS IS ANOTHER QUESTION. IN ANY EVENT, THESSALONIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THEIR CITY WAS CHOSEN FOR THIS POLITICAL DECLARATION WHICH MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS. COONY

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Message Attributes

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